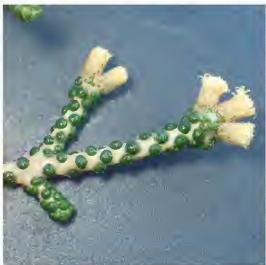


Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club Inc.

Bulletin

<http://tasfieldnats.org.au>

October 2017



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Left: *Ozothamnus scutelliformis* - Buttonleaf Everlasting bush, a Tasmanian endemic which grows on dolerite soils, and a dominant understorey plant seen on the Mt Rumney excursion.
Photograph: Annabel Carle.

Program

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Thursday 2nd November | Meeting -Guest Speaker: James Wood from Royal Tasmanian Botanic Gardens will present on “Experiences with Tasmanian Flora”. |
| Sunday 5th November | Excursion to The Steppes, Central Plateau |
| Thursday 7th December | Members Night - Members are asked to bring interesting observations or to make short presentations to the club members. |
| Saturday 9th December | Christmas BBQ/picnic at the Bushland Garden at Buckland. |
| Thursday 1st February | First meeting for 2018 |

General Meetings start at 7.15 pm for 7.30 pm on the first Thursday of the month and feature a guest speaker on natural history (no meetings or excursions in January). Meetings are held in the Life Science Building at the University of Tasmania.

Excursions are usually held the following Saturday or Sunday, meeting at 9.00 am outside the Museum in Macquarie St, Hobart. Bring lunch and all-weather outdoor gear. If you are planning to attend an outing, but have not been to the prior meeting, please confirm the details on the club website as late changes are sometimes made.

Excursion to Herringback

6th. August 2017

Herringback is a 748 metre mountain above Sandfly. It is privately owned, but a four-wheel drive road to the top services telecommunications towers, and the landowner is happy to allow respectful walkers to use the road. On the day of our visit there were quite a few other walkers doing so.

Finding the start of the walk was a little tricky for some, especially as the turnoff on Vinces Saddle is initially Krauses Road, before turning into the advertised Vinces Saddle Road. However we had an excellent rollup of 19 Field Nats for the day.



Setting out for the Herringback climb

Photo: Amanda Thomson

The walk is just over two kilometres each way but climbs about 300 metres, and some sections near the top are steep. Apart from that the walk is rather easy. It starts in drier forest (*Eucalyptus obliqua*, *E. globulus* and *E. pulchella*), goes through a small abandoned olive grove (which would have surprised me greatly had I not read up on the walk beforehand!) and then heads up through much wetter eucalypt forest on dolerite. It doesn't really get into mixed forest, but I did see a single small sassafras near the top.



In the abandoned olive grove
Photo: Amanda Thomson

Like nearby Snug Tiers, Herringback is notable for its eucalypt diversity. A total of ten species were seen. There is an altitudinal transition from *E. obliqua* to *E. delegatensis* and then to *E. coccifera* near the summit. *E. urnigera* and some *E. subcrenulata* were also seen around the top. One patch on the lower transition includes 5 species: *E. cordata*, *E. delegatensis*, *E. obliqua*, *E. globulus* and *E. pulchella*. There were large groves of tall *E. cordata* (at least one of which was flowering) in a paddock area just before the olive plantation, with *E. rubida* at edge of a frost hollow. *E. ovata* was not seen, but likely to be present somewhere.



Tall *E. cordata* in paddock

Photo: Kevin Bonham

(Thanks to Mick Brown for the info on eucalypts.)

Mammal sightings included pademelon, Bennetts wallaby, and an extremely dead Antechinus while probable devil scats were seen as well as echidna diggings. Birds were vocal but not especially diverse. A grey shrike thrush near the carpark seemed intent on dismantling a large fence post, and later on we saw a grey fantail and an eastern spinebill flying around together.

I had high hopes for land snails on Herringback based on its closeness to Pelverata Falls (which has its own apparently endemic snail genus) and Neika (where I recently found another new one in rock scree). As it turned out the snail list was reasonably diverse but nothing too surprising or unusual.

Thanks to Anna for introducing us to this new outing destination.

Kevin Bonham

Herringback Lichens Report

This outing provided quite a diversity of lichens. As could be expected in this more open woodland and partially cleared habitat, several species of *Cladonia* (goblet lichens) were seen as we passed through pastures and then along regrowth forest margins.

Some exposed bedrock and scattered dolerite boulders hosted a colourful mosaic of crustose and foliose lichens. In a small, flat area beside the track I spotted a very unusual-looking crustose lichen growing on the ground with black fruit bodies that are slightly reminiscent of blackberries. Much searching at home led me to its likely identification as *Mycobilimbia australis*, described only fairly recently, in 2005. As we climbed



Mycobilimbia australis. Photo: Sabine Borgis

up further, I saw some *Pseudocyphellaria crocata* and *Peltigera dolichorhiza* on the side of the track (both host cyanobacteria as they are photosymbionts), which prefer a damper habitat. In the bark of a eucalypt I saw *Usnea* sp. (Old Man's Beard) which was covered in isidia (small asexual reproductive propagules). Keying it out at home revealed it could be *Usnea inermis*, although chemical testing would give a more definitive identification. Once we reached the hilltop with the communications tower, the fairly ubiquitous *Placopsis gelida* with its distinctive pink fruit bodies could be seen on rocks.

Sabine Borgis



Xanthoparm scabrosa. Photo: Sabine Borgis

Herringback bird list (Geoff and Janet Fenton)

Birds seen

- Eastern Spinebill
- Grey Fantail
- Grey Shrike Thrush
- New Holland Honeyeater
- Striated Pardalote
- Yellow-throated Honeyeater

Birds heard:

- Black Currawong
- Crescent Honeyeater
- Forest Raven
- Golden Whistler
- Grey Currawong
- Spotted Pardalote
- Superb Blue Wren

Herringback Snails (Kevin Bonham)

- Caryodes dufresnii*
- Tasmaphena sinclairi*
- Prolesophanta nelsonensis*
- Gratiloma* sp "Knocklofty"
- Paralaoma* cf *hobarti*
- Paralaoma mucoides*
- Roblinella gadensis* (striped form)
- "*Planiloma*" *sitiens* (5 km range extension)
- "*Allocharopa*" spp "Port Huon" and "Wellington"
- Trocholoma parvissima*
- Stenacapha hamiltoni*
- Deroceras reticulatum* (exotic slug)
- Limax maximus* (exotic slug)

Herringback Plants (Mick Brown)

- Acacia melanoxylon*
- Acacia riceana*
- Acacia stricta*
- Acacia verniciflua*
- Acacia verticillata*
- Acaena novo-zelandiae*
- Acrotriche serulata*
- Ajuga australis*
- Astroloma humifusum*
- Bedfordia salicina*
- Blechnum wattsii*
- Bursaria spinosa*
- Callistemon pallidus*
- Cassinia aculeata*
- Coprosma hirtella*

Coprosma quadrifida
Correa reflexa
Cyathodes glauca
Cyathodes juniperina
Cyathodes parvifolia
Dianella tasmanica
Dicksonia antarctica
Eucalyptus coccifera
E. cordata
E. delegatensis
E. globulus
E. obliqua
E. pulchella
E. rubida
E. subcrenulata
E. urnigera
E. viminalis
Erica lusitanica
Exocarpos cupressiformis
Gahnia grandis
Geranium potentilloides
Gnaphalium collinum
Gonocarpus teucrioides
Gonocarpus tetragyna
Goodenia ovata
Hakea lissosperma
Helichrysum apiculare
Helichrysum reticulatum
Hibbertia empetrifolia
Hypericum gramineum
Juncus spp
Lepidosperma elatius
L. inops
L. laterale
Leptomeria drupacea
Leptospermum lanigerum
L. scoparia
Lomatia tinctoria
Luzula spp.
Melaleuca squarrosa
Notelaea ligustrina
Olearia argophylla
Olearia phlogopappa
Olearia viscosa
Pimelea nivea
Poa billardierei
Polystichum proliferum
Pomaderris apetala
P. elliptica

Prostanthera lasianthos
Pultanea juniperina
P. peduncularis
Richea dracophyllum
Senecio linearis
Viola hederacea
Westringia angustifolia

Excursion to Peter Murrell Reserve

10th. September 2017

After a week of wintry weather the sun was shining as 31 members and guests set out on our excursion at Peter Murrell Reserve. Our guide was Peter Jarman, the President of The Friends of Peter Murrell Reserves, and some of their group also joined us.

We began at the Burwood Drive entrance and walked along the perimeter of a large area that had been burnt in a controlled fire in April this year, it looked very desolate. On the other side of the track was an area that had been burnt 12 months previously and this was showing very healthy signs of regrowth in both the trees and the vegetation.



Some of the group in PM Reserve
Photo: Geoff Carle

Due to the lack of rain during this past winter the spring flowering plants are only just starting to appear. We saw a couple of patches of *Acanthus caudatus* (Mayfly orchid) and *Pterostylis curta* (Nodding Greenhood) but it was a little early for the many varieties of orchid which are usually found at PMR in springtime.

The reserve has a number of different habitats and Peter took us to a special patch with a clay substrate that supports a range of plants not commonly found in the rest of the reserve. Annie Wapstra has an extensive plant list that she has compiled over the

years and when our eagle eyed members spotted *Carpobrotus rossii* (Native Pigface) and *Lissanthe stringosa* (Peachberry Heath) she was very pleased to add these two species to her list.

Michael and Geoff were on their knees trying to catch tiny male crickets but few other insects were seen. Only a small number of fungi were found.

Our thanks to Peter and the Friends for showing us the varied nature of this important bushland habitat.

Margaret Warren



Bee, probably *Lasioglossum* spp.

Photo: Geoff Carle

Peter Murrell Reserve Bird List

Brown thornbill
Eastern spinebill
Fairy wren
Forest raven
Green rosella
Grey butcher bird
Grey currawong
Grey fantail
Grey shrikethrush
Kookaburra
Masked lapwing
Great cormorants (multiples flying overhead in loose formation)
New Holland honeyeater
Scarlet robin
Striated pardalote
Welcome swallow
Yellow-headed honeyeater
Yellow-throated honeyeater

Fungi (Genevieve Gates)

Amanita 'grey group'

Cortinarius 'brown, yellowish gills' very common

Descolea *recedens*

Laccaria sp.

Lichenomphalia chromacea

Perenniporia ochroleuca

Pycnoporus coccineus

Trametes versicolor

Tremella fuciformis

Crickets (Mike Driessen)

Bobilla poeni

Bobilla tasmanii



Acianthus caudatus (Mayfly orchid)

Photo: Geoff Carle

Plant List

A comprehensive plant list for these reserves has been compiled by the Friends of Peter Murrell Reserves, and can be found online at:

<http://www.parks.tas.gov.au/index.aspx?base=29206>

Excursion to Mt. Rumney

8th. October 2017

Fourteen members and guests gathered at David Graham's property on Mt Rumney. This 50ha farm was one of the original Soldier Settlements and has been in the Graham family for almost 100 years.

After her talk on biosecurity at the meeting on

Thursday night, Magali Wright gave the club a disinfecting kit and Amanda put this to good use by spraying everyone's boots before we set off.

The bushland is dry sclerophyll on dolerite with grassland and damp gullies. The dominant shrub is *Ozothamnus scutellifolius* which is endemic and found on dry dolerite hillsides in the southeast.

We began our walk in one of the damp gullies where Kevin found one living and a few dead native snails, *Helicarion cuvieri*. No native snails were found on the hillside, presumably due to the presence of the introduced Garlic Glass Snail (*Oxylilus alliarius*). This tiny snail feeds on the eggs of native snails and emitted a very strong garlic odour when disturbed.

Cameras were kept busy trying to capture the many jumping spiders, insects, flies and a Hobart Brown butterfly (*Argynnina hobartia*) found during the walk.



Field Naturalists at Mt Rumney excursion
Photograph: Margaret Warren

Although raptors are often seen around the property none were in evidence during our visit and only a few other birds were heard.

Many thanks to David Graham for an interesting excursion.

Margaret Warren



Hobart Brown Butterfly *Argynnina hobartia*
Photo: Margaret Warren

Plant list (Annabel Carle)

* = introduced species

Cyperaceae

Carex sp. - Sedges

Lepidosperma sp. - Sword-sedge

Poaceae

Poa labillardieri - Common Tussock-grass

Poa sieberiana - Grey Tussock-grass

Themeda triandra - Kangaroo-grass

Asteraceae

Brachysome sp.? - leaves only

Lagenophora huegelii - Coarse Bottle-daisy

Ozothamnus scutellifolius - Button-leaf Everlasting.

**Taraxacum* sp. - Dandelion (near road only)

Ericaceae

Lissanthe strigosa - Peachberry heath (leaves only)

Fabaceae

Acacia dealbata - Silver Wattle

Acacia verticillata - Prickly Moses

Bossiaea prostrata - Creeping Bossiaea (leaves only)

Myrtaceae

Eucalyptus pulchella - White Peppermint

Eucalyptus viminalis - Manna gum or White gum

Oxalidaceae

Oxalis perennans - Native Sorrel

Pittosporaceae

Bursaria spinosa - Prickly Box (many old seed pods)

Polygalaceae

Comesperma volubile - Blue Lovecreeper

Rosaceae

Acaena echinata - Sheep's Burr (only seen near road)

Santalaceae

Exocarpos cupressiformis - Native Cherry



Walking on Mt Rumney
Photograph: Margaret Warren

Bandicoots on the lawn

As members have been leaving Field Naturalists meetings recently, they have been delighted to see a Barred bandicoot (sometimes two) foraging around on the lawn which forms the roof of the Herbarium. The bandicoot has been unperturbed by the observers, and Mick Brown retrieved his camera from his car after one meeting and returned to the site in time to catch this fuzzy image in the low light.



Barred Bandicoot
Photo: Mick Brown

Library Corner

New to our website

Some of you may have noticed two new useful articles on our website. (Thanks go to Magali Wright NRM South, who provided information that formed the base of both these articles.)

1. A member asked how they could extract from the **Natural Values Atlas** a species list for a specific area. A step by step guide can now be found at:

<http://tasfieldnats.org.au/data/documents/How-to-get-a-species-list-out-of-NVA.pdf>

2. **Bush hygiene notes for bush walkers and field naturalists.** This reinforces the talk by Magali Wright at our October meeting.

<http://tasfieldnats.org.au/data/documents/Bush-Hygiene.pdf>

Coming soon to the website!

The project to get our historical hardcopy Bulletins/Newsletters (1907-1999) on line is proceeding well. Thanks to Don Hird (and Simon Gove who facilitated it) all these Bulletins have now been scanned and I am collating them into order, checking for legibility and putting them into year batches. I am well over half way and we hope by the end of this year that we can have them up on our website.

New to the library

The TFNC Library book catalogue has been updated to include our recent acquisitions. It can be found on our website at <http://www.tasfieldnats.org.au/library/>

If you wish to borrow any of our books please email me on librarian@tasfieldnats.org.au or see me in the foyer prior to a monthly meeting to arrange collection.

Book Accessions since June 2017

We have been fortunate to have had a number of books donated to our library. Whilst some of these are now a few years old, they usefully fill some gaps of information in our library.

Thanks to Genevieve Gates and David Ratkowsky our library acquired the following books from the downsize of the Forestry Tasmania library.

Aspects of Tasmanian Botany: A tribute to Winifred Curtis by Banks, MR; Smith, SJ; Orchard, AE; Kantvilas, G. (Editors) (1991)

botanical papers published as a tribute to Winifred Curtis. Chapters include: biography; early exploration; macrofossil evidence and diverse research papers (Hepaticae; Fungi; Mosses; Monocots and Dicots).

Flora and Fauna of Alpine Australasia: Ages and Origins.
Barlow, Bryan A. (Editor) (1986)

Alpine environments of Australia, New Guinea and NZ differ from each other in terms of topography, genesis, climate & biota and contrast strongly with northern hemisphere alpine habitats. Paleoclimatology, paleobotany, biogeography, ecology and plant and animal systematics are used to discuss bio-historical relationships of these isolated islands of alpine terrain in the southern hemisphere.

Insect Pests of Trees and Timber in Tasmania

Elliott, HJ & de Little DW. (1983)
information on the main insect pests of tree and timber in Tasmania, and details of the damage they cause and best means of control. Colour photographs enable easy ID of common pests.

A Key and Field Guide to the Possums, Gliders and Koala
Smith, Andrew & Winer, John (1997)

Includes a species key, species descriptions and coloured pictures and distribution maps for the whole of Australia

World Fire. The culture of fire on earth Pyne, Stephen, J. (1995)

How fire and humans have co-evolved: the two

are inseparable and together they have remade the landscape.

Bushfire. History, Prevention, Control Foster, Ted. (1976)

Analysis of fire behaviour, prevention, control, firefighting equipment, bushfires & the environment with the aim to learn to live with it.

Donated by David Ratkowsky

The Rock which makes Tasmania Leaman, David (2002)

Dolerite is an uncommon rock in a world perspective, but it dominates Tasmania's geology. The author believes that we should understand the rock on which we live, sometimes called "Tasmania's curse". He explains its Jurassic origins, and particular engineering considerations.

Charles Darwin in Hobart Town Davies, Margaret (Editor.) (2009)

Papers presented in a symposium and the annotated guides and discussions on excursions made by Darwin whilst in Hobart.

Donated by EIs Wakefield

Tasmania: A Natural History Davis, William E. jnr. (2007)

An overview of the natural history of Tasmania from the perspective of a visiting US academic.

Annabel Carle, TFNC Librarian

Raptor and Wildlife Refuge

I interviewed Craig Webb recently and asked him about the history and operation of the Raptor Wildlife Refuge at Kettering. Field Nats may remember a club excursion to the Refuge a few years ago.

Craig established the Centre about 14 years ago and during that time has developed the infrastructure. The centre now has an education and display pod, flight enclosures extensive enough to allow rehabilitating eagles to fly, a series of smaller aviaries and a raptor hospital.

Craig is well known as 'the raptor man' and people contact him when they find injured birds. He cites the main causes of injury as collisions with powerlines, wind generators and vehicles, and encounters with people with guns. Some are also affected when they eat poisoned rodents.**

About 50% of the rehabilitees can eventually be released but some permanently disabled birds remain in the aviaries.

The Raptor Rescue Centre receives no government funding, and one of Craig's main fundraisers is his calendar which features photographs of several

species of raptors. The 2018 calendar is now available in many outlets (Eumarraah, Muirs, Animal Tuckerbox, Green Shop, Dymocks, Wilderness Society....) for \$10.

** Craig says a new rodenticide called Rampage may be less toxic to raptors consuming poisoned carcasses, and multi-dose rodenticides may also be less harmful to birds.



The Tasmanian Naturalist Number 139 (2017)

is now in production and will be mailed out to financial members in December.

Deadline for January Bulletin is January 19th, 2018

About The Tasmanian Field Naturalists Club

We encourage the study of natural history and support conservation. People of any age and background are welcome as members.

For more information, visit our website

<http://www.tasfieldnats.org.au/>

or email secretary@tasfieldnats.org.au or write to:

GPO Box 68, Hobart, 7001

Subscriptions are:

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Editor: Deirdre Brown

Your articles and photos for the Bulletin are welcome. Please email to the editor at tfn.bulletin.editor@gmail.com